



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

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Department of Revenue Begins Posting Delinquent Tax Accounts On The Internet

ATLANTA – Georgia's taxpayers with access to the Internet can view a list of approximately 200 individuals and 200 businesses that have a delinquent tax account with the state.

The Department began posting the "Georgia Tax Delinquent List" today on its web site at www.gatax.org.

The posted individual delinquent accounts range between \$95,960 and \$1.3 million and date from May 1989. The posted delinquent business accounts range between \$134,088 and \$2.3 million dating back to May 1989. The posted delinquent accounts are a small portion of the more than 420,000 delinquent accounts that owe approximately \$1.6 billion.

"There is a link at the Department's home page that will transfer those interested in viewing the list to its location," said Revenue Commissioner Bart L. Graham.

During its 2003 session, the Georgia legislature passed legislation giving the Department the authority to publish on the Internet the names of individuals and businesses that have a delinquent tax account.

Each individual and business on the "Georgia Tax Delinquent List" has a recorded tax execution (lien) filed against them in the county superior court where the individual resided or business was located at the time of recording. The amounts shown as owed do not necessarily reflect the current outstanding balance. The

taxpayer could have made some payments since the lien was recorded or additional interest and penalties could have accrued. The Department made multiple attempts to communicate the tax liability with each taxpayer before recording the lien. The notices provided the taxpayer with an opportunity to pay the liability or to explain any discrepancies in the Department's information. The notices were mailed to the taxpayer at the last address on file with the Department.

"Our objective in posting delinquent taxpayers names on the Internet is to bring as many taxpayers as possible into compliance with the state's tax laws and to dissuade individuals who might be considering not to fulfill their tax obligation to take another course of action," explained Commissioner Graham. "We are not trying to embarrass anyone."

The Internet posting is just one of many initiatives the Department is using to bring more taxpayers into compliance with their obligations.

"We are constantly trying to discover ways where we more effectively use the resources we have at our disposal," said Commissioner Graham. "It's too expensive, too impractical and too time consuming for the Department to pursue each delinquent account on a case-by-case basis."

In October, the Department initiated an aggressive initiative aimed at collecting taxes from delinquent taxpayers. As of December 2003, that initiative has collected approximately \$21.6 million. The four components of the initiative recorded the following results: private collection agencies, \$4.6 million; DOR's compliance call center, \$3.7 million; holding alcohol licenses until all tax obligations were paid, \$7.2 million; and the Federal Treasury Offset Program, \$6.1 million.

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